

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO DECLARATION: PARLIAMENTARY ASPECTS

REF: STATE 48036

1. INCLUSION OF REFERENCE TO NATO PARLIAMENTS/PARLIAMENTARIANS IN THE ATLANTIC DECLARATION HAS ALSO COME UP IN MISSION CONVERSATION WITH PHILIPPE DESHORMES, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY (NAA). AT ONE POINT, DESHORMES GAVE US FOLLOWING ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT OF POSSIBLE SENTENCE IN DECLARATION COVERING PARLIAMENTARY ASPECTS:

"WITH REGARD TO THE COHESION OF THE PEOPLES OF THE ALLIANCE, THE ASSOCIATION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENTS WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF ATLANTIC RELATIONS IS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE; THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY HAS PROVED IN ITS 19 YEARS OF EXISTENCE TO BE AN INVALUABLE ASSET IN ENGAGING THE COMMITMENT OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS AND PUBLIC OPINION TO THE IDEALS OF THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY; IT SHOULD, THEREFORE, BE SUPPORTED AND DEVELOPED IN ITS IMPORTANT ROLE AS A UNIQUE FORUM FOR THE FREE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND VIEWS BETWEEN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED."

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2. WE FULLY AGREE THAT NATO PARLIAMENTS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS FORM A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF ALLIANCE ACTIVITIES AND THAT REFERENCE TO THAT FACT SHOULD LOGICALLY BE A PART OF THE DECLARATION, WHETHER IN THE LANGUAGE SUGGESTED BY DESHORMES

OR IN SOME SHORTER, LESS SPECIFIC FORMULATION.

3. WE RECOGNIZE THAT AN EFFORT TO INSERT IN THE DECLARATION A REFERENCE TO PARLIAMENTS OR SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE NAA, COULD RAISE TRADITIONAL RELUCTANCE OF SOME NATIONS TO GIVE FORMAL ALLIANCE RECOGNITION TO NAA OR OTHER PARLIAMENTARY GROUPINGS. THIS RELUCTANCE IN TURN STEMS PRIMARILY FROM THE NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS THEMSELVES WHO HAVE TO DATE PREFERRED A "NON-CAPTIVE" ROLE INDEPENDENT OF FORMAL ALLIANCE INSTITUTIONS.

4. ALSO, WE RECOGNIZE THAT REFERENCE TO PARLIAMENTS MIGHT ALSO PROMPT STANDARD, DIVISIVE COMPLAINTS FROM SCANDINAVIANS AND OTHERS ABOUT GREECE, WHOSE PARLIAMENT IS "SUSPENDED," AND ABOUT TURKS AND PORTUGUESE WHOSE DEMOCRATIC CREDENTIALS ARE "SUSPECT."

5. AS THE DEPARTMENT CORRECTLY POINTS OUT, THE FRENCH MIGHT HAVE PROBLEMS WITH ANY PARLIAMENTARY REFERENCE, LET ALONE A REFERENCE TO THE NAA, IN THE DECLARATION.

6. HOWEVER, I RECOMMEND THAT U.S. AT LEAST FORMALLY OFFER A SUGGESTION TO ALLIES THAT A REFERENCE TO PARLIAMENTS BE INCLUDED. THIS COULD BE DONE IN GENERAL WAY OR BY OFFERING SPECIFIC LANGUAGE. IF IT IS REJECTED BY OTHERS FOR THEIR OWN REASONS, SO BE IT. AT LEAST WE WILL HAVE MADE EFFORT WHICH IS SOUND FROM U.S. STANDPOINT.
RUMSFELD

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